

Metropolitan

Winter 2005

King County Council

News

STEVE HAMMOND
DISTRICT 9



King County

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Dear Friend:

Once again, we find ourselves at the end of a busy year and looking forward to a new year filled with promise and challenge. I want to let each of you know that I feel it is a great honor to be able to serve you as a member of the King County Council. I am very grateful for the interest you have in County government. Your comments and thoughtful suggestions have been very helpful.

On November 22, the Council adopted the 2005 budget. Again this year, the focus was on decisions that will make the County more accountable and efficient. A breakdown is on page 2.

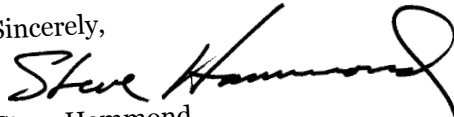
In October, the Council passed the three controversial ordinances known as Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO). I voted "no" on this legislation. Please see page 3 for more information.

The Council is taking the first steps to implement the vote of the people to reduce the size of the Council from 13 to nine members. The Districting Committee is in place and has begun working to create boundaries for the nine new districts. They plan to finish by mid-January (see page 3).

Finally, citizens in the northern part of District Nine have filed to incorporate a new city of Fairwood. It is hoped that residents will decide whether or not to birth a new city by November, 2005. See page 2.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year. If you have any questions about these topics, or if you have any other questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Steve Hammond

In this issue:

P.2 Fairwood
Incorporation

P.2 Budget

P.3 CAO Update

P.3 Redistricting



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Citizens in Fairwood file for incorporation

On November 18, 2004, a group of citizens in the Fairwood area filed a petition to incorporate a new city of Fairwood. The process will be a year-long evaluation of the data to determine if this proposed incorporation is appropriate. The Boundary Review Board is overseeing this process. The County has initiated an in-depth economic feasibility analysis.

After a preliminary public meeting on December 16th, proponents must circulate petitions calling for a future election for the voters to decide on the incorporation. These petitions must be signed by 10% of the registered voters living within the

incorporation area. The proponents of the new city have information regarding the proposed incorporation on their website at <http://fairwoodtaskforce.org/>

If the petition drive is successful, a vote on the incorporation could occur as early as November 2005.

For more information:

**WASHINGTON STATE
BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD**

www.metrokc.gov/annexations/

FAIRWOOD TASKFORCE

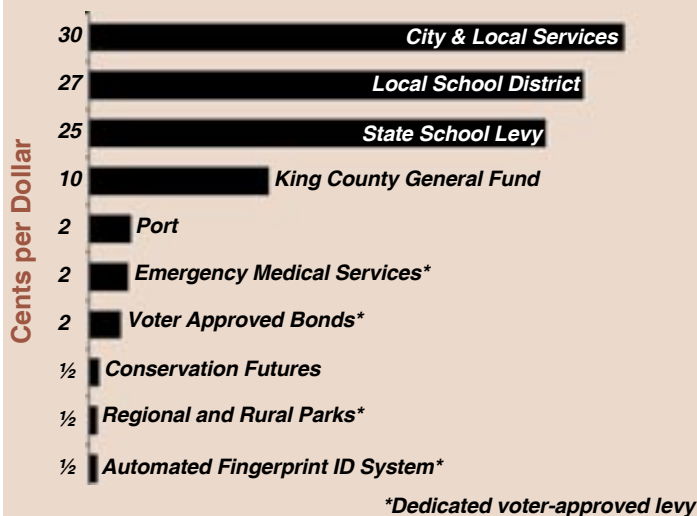
<http://fairwoodtaskforce.org/>

King County passes 2005 budget 13-0

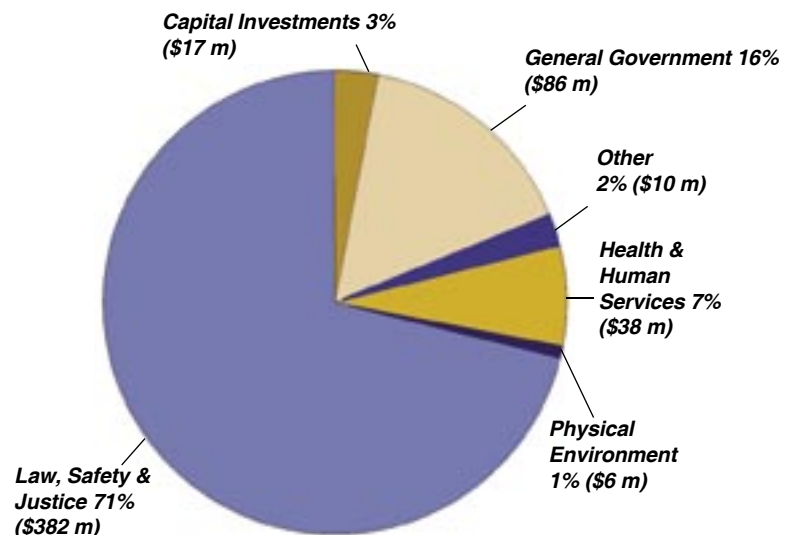
On November 22, the King County Council unanimously adopted a 2005 County budget that tightens oversight and controls on spending and seeks out savings and efficiencies, so that the county can continue to offer essential services with no new general taxes.

The \$3.4 billion budget includes \$538.8 million in the general fund, which supports mandatory funding for criminal justice agencies, the costs of general government, and discretionary funding for human service programs.

How your property taxes are used



2005 King County General Fund \$539 million



Controversial CAO is being challenged

As you are aware, the King County Council passed the Critical Area Ordinances (CAO) in late October. This was a controversial decision that divided the Council. The ordinances passed by a vote of 7 to 6 along party lines. I joined Councilmembers Jane Hague, David Irons, Kathy Lambert, Rob McKenna, and Pete von Reichbauer in voting against this ordinance.

Presently citizens are gathering signatures to overturn each of the three ordinances by referendum to be voted on by the people. Only those citizens registered to vote living in unincorporated King County are eligible to sign these petitions, and to vote on the referenda, if the signature gathering effort is successful, to vote on the referenda.

Because these referenda have been filed, I am precluded by law from advocating a position for or against these possible ballot measures in this venue. However, I am allowed to answer individual

questions and can respond to individual phone calls, emails, and letters. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions.

Also, just before press time, the King County Prosecuting Attorney, Norm Maleng, announced that he was filing a lawsuit at the request of the King County Executive Ron Sims to stop these referenda from proceeding to a vote.

In a related matter, the Pacific Legal Foundation has announced that it will be challenging portions of the CAO in court.



Presently, citizens are gathering signatures to overturn each of the three Critical Areas Ordinances by referenda to be voted on by the people.

Initiative to reduce size of Council passes

In November, voters approved the measure to reduce the size of the King County Council from 13 to 9 members. In keeping with the wish of the voters, the Districting Committee has been formed and is meeting. The committee has indicated that they will have a proposed map of the new nine district boundaries available by the end of 2004.

The committee has scheduled a number of public meetings to receive public comment on the proposed new districts. I would like to call your attention to the one scheduled for South King County. It has tentatively been scheduled to be held on:

- Thursday, January 6, 6:00 p.m.,
Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main

Updated information can also be found on my website at www.metrokc.gov/hammond.

Public Hearing Schedule

The Independent citizen Districting Committee charged with redrawing the boundaries of the County's Council districts and reducing their number from 13 to nine has set an aggressive schedule of public hearings in different locations throughout King County to meet its January 15 deadline for adopting a new Districting map.

- ***Wednesday, January 5, 6:00 p.m., Lake Forest Park City Hall, 17425 Ballinger Way NE***
- ***Thursday, January 6, 6:00 p.m., Auburn City Hall, 25 West Main***
- ***Saturday, January 8, 10:00 a.m., King County Courthouse, Council Chambers, 516 Third Ave., Seattle***



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Information for our community

- Fairwood Incorporation
- King County Budget
- CAO Update
- King County Council Redistricting

Would you like to receive periodic updates by email?



In an effort to keep you informed of county business, we are beginning an email newsletter. To subscribe, just send an email to:

steve.hammond@metrokc.gov

and put "Subscribe D9 News" in the subject line.

Don't do email?

No problem. I will still send a printed newsletter from time to time.

Happy New Year!



I wish you and your family a healthy, happy and prosperous new year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Hammond". The signature is fluid and cursive.